

Public Safety Committee
Room 2E Legislative Office Building
Hartford CT

February 28, 2012

SUPPORT:
HB 5245 & SB196

Members of the Committee:

I would urge this committee to support **HB 5245 An Act Concerning the Application requirements for a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver.**

Currently state statutes specify certain requirements be met for persons who apply for a permit to carry pistols & revolvers. Unfortunately, what has transpired over the years is that municipal police departments have begun to add additional requirements of their own, which go beyond the scope of what is mandated by statute.

These additional pieces of information vary widely by town, with some towns not requiring any thing additional, and other towns adding a multitude of layers. These include asking for letters of reference, and questions as to whether a person has all their teeth or prosthetic limbs.

Some towns even go as far as requiring applicants to provide contact information for their employers and neighbors, who are then contacted and queried about whether the applicant should receive a permit.

As the legislature knows, permit information is protected by state law, and by contacting neighbors and employers during the application process, town police departments appear to be effectively preempting state privacy laws.

The majority of applicants for permits are persons who are trying to abide by the laws and regulations of our state. By allowing this situation to continue, applicants are being needlessly delayed and intimidated.

It should be noted that previously the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (BPFE) issued a Declaratory ruling on this subject advising that the municipal police departments were exceeding their jurisdiction by requesting additional information. Since that ruling was issued, it would appear that no changes have taken place, and the problem is still pervasive.

I would ask that you support this legislation, with one minor modification: that the phrase additional "forms" be replaced with additional "information" so that the intent of the bill remains clear.

Also, I would urge this committee to support SB 196 An Act concerning the recording of pistol and revolver sale in a bound book.

Sincerely,
Amy Stegall
Stafford Connecticut